

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Contact Person:

Mr. John Swei
Leader of PLEC PNG
National Research Institute
P.O. Box 5854, Boroko, Papua New Guinea
Tel: (675) 326 0300
Fax: (675) 326 0213
E-mail: nri@global.net.pg

Local collaborating institutions:

National Research Institute
P.O. Box 5854, Boroko, Papua New Guinea

Department of Human Geography
RSPAS, Australian National University
Canberra, ACT 0200, Australia
Tel: 61 2 6249 4347
Fax: 61 2 6249 4896

Dept. of Human Ecology
School of International Health
Faculty of Medicine, University of Tokyo
7-3-1 Hongo, Tokyo 113, Japan

School of Earth Sciences
Macquarie University
Sydney, 2109, Australia

Description of Activity:

PNG Cluster has worked with local communities at the principal Tumam-Nghambole site in the East Sepik Province, and other subsidiary sites in Ogotana, Central Province, Tari, Southern Highlands Province, and Miko East Sepik Province

The performance of PNG Cluster research and demonstration activities and the outputs of the project can be evaluated by reviewing the achievements. The measure of outcomes is important for the sustainability of PLEC research and demonstration approaches with local communities to create an atmosphere of the benefits of planning for sustainable resource management in smallholder agricultural systems.

Sustainable management and utilization of biodiversity is important for the sustenance of rural livelihood. In Papua New Guinea (PNG), there is no legislative framework in place to regulate the activities of smallholder farmers. Most of the land (approximately 95%) of the land is under customary tenure of family groups referred to as clans or a tribe (groups of clans). This means that the current acts (National Parks Act, Wildlife Management Acts, and the Fauna Protection Act) only applies to state acquired or state owned land. These acts do not govern or regulate the activities of biodiversity management on land under customary ownership.

This means that state agencies such as the Office of Environment and Conservation (OEC) cannot regulate biodiversity management in smallholder agricultural systems. The OEC has therefore concentrated on promoting environmental education and awareness. The PLEC PNG Cluster activities complements these efforts as well as other biodiversity conservation strategies undertaken by the Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community-based Organizations (CBOs).

The achievements of PLEC PNG Cluster has been a vehicle by which descriptive analysis of the demonstration sites and the demonstration activities has provided database and complimentary demonstration activities to foster the efforts of creating awareness with sustainable biodiversity management at smallholder agricultural systems.

Outputs of PLEC PNG Cluster activities contain field days, workshops, seminars, publications including biodiversity, agrodiversity, population and resource database development, farmer exchange visits, community participation, NGO and line agencies participation.